

Message Text

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S E C R E T STATE 228678

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PINS, OGEN, AO, IV, CG

SUBJECT:YOUNG-MOOSE DISCUSSION WITH DE GUIRINGAUD ON ANGOLA

REF: A; ABIDJAN 8245 (NOTAL); B) NAIROBI 13037 (NOTAL)

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1. DURING VISIT TO NAIROBI FOR KENYATTA FUNERAL, AMBASSA-
DOR ANDREW YOUNG AND AF ASSISTANT SECRETARY RICHARD MOOSE
MET WITH FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER DE GUIRINGAUD ON SEPTEM-
BER 1 FOR TOUR D'HORIZON ON AFRICA. FOLLOWING COVERS
THEIR EXCHANGE ON ANGOLA.

2. AMBASSADOR YOUNG THANKED GUIRINGAUD FOR FRENCH ASSIS-

TANCE IN OUR INITIAL CONTACTS WITH ANGOLAN GOVERNMENT. DE GUIRINGAUD NOTED THAT DESPITE PROBLEM OVER EXCHANGE OF AMBASSADORS AND CRITICISM OF FRANCE BY NETO AND THE ANGOLAN PRESS, FRENCH RELATIONS WITH ANGOLA ARE GOOD. HE HAD PUT AN END TO MILITARY AID TO UNITA AND HE INTENDED TO EXPEL SOME OF SAVIMBI'S PEOPLE FROM FRANCE IN THE VERY NEAR FUTURE "WITH AS MUCH FANFARE AS POSSIBLE" IN ORDER TO GIVE NETO "A CLEAR SIGNAL."

3. ASSISTANT SECRETARY MOOSE NOTED THAT USG HAD RECENTLY BEEN SURPRISED TO RECEIVE AN INDIRECT MESSAGE FROM NETO THROUGH MOBUTU WHICH EXPRESSED ANGOLA'S DESIRE TO DISCUSS

BROAD RANGE OF ISSUES INCLUDING CUBAN TROOPS QUESTION. DE GUIRINGAUD SAID HE WAS NOT SURPRISED AT EITHER THE MESSAGE OR THE CHANNEL. GISCARD HAD ALSO RECEIVED WHAT HE CONSIDERED TO BE A SIGNIFICANT MESSAGE FROM NETO THROUGH MOBUTU FOLLOWING THE KINSHASA VISIT.

4. DE GUIRINGAUD NOTED THAT EANES (OF PORTUGAL) HAD ADVISED HIM TO DROP SAVIMBI AND TO WORK WITH NETO. AT THE SAME TIME SOARES WAS TELLING THE FRENCH THAT NETO WAS A REAL MARXIST, HAD URGED CAUTION AND THE MAINTENANCE OF RELATIONS WITH SAVIMBI. ASSISTANT SECRETARY MOOSE SAID THAT IF DISCUSSIONS WITH NETO ABOUT CUBAN TROOP PRESENCE
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IN ANGOLA TOOK PLACE, ANGOLA'S SECURITY CONCERNS WERE CERTAIN TO BE RAISED. WHILE AGREEMENTS WITH RESPECT TO THE ZAIRE-ANGOLA BORDER WERE REASSURING, BOTH MOBUTU AND NETO STILL COUNT THEIR FINGERS AFTER SHAKING HANDS WITH EACH OTHER. IF AID NO LONGER GOES TO SAVIMBI VIA MOBUTU, THAT LEAVES ONLY SOUTH AFRICA AS A PROBLEM. IF NAMIBIA WAS SETTLED, NETO WAS IN POSITION TO EXPLAIN DEPARTURE OF ANY CUBAN TROOPS ON BASIS OF IMPROVED SECURITY SITUATION. DE GUIRINGAUD OBSERVED THAT SOUTH AFRICA NO LONGER MAINTAINS A RELATIONSHIP WITH SAVIMBI.

5. AMBASSADOR YOUNG NOTED CONCERNS WHICH ANGOLANS HAD RAISED WITH AMBASSADOR MCHENRY ON CUBAN ASSISTANCE. CUBANS WERE EXPENSIVE, AND COULD NOT PROVIDE FIRST-RATE TECHNICAL AND PROFESSIONAL HELP. ANGOLANS WERE VERY PRACTICAL, AND WERE NOT GETTING THE TYPE OF HELP THEY DESERVED. MPLA SOURCES HAD FROM THE VERY BEGINNING SAID THEY DID NOT WISH TO BE TOTALLY DEPENDENT ON SOVIETS AND CUBANS AND NETO HAD REASON TO BELIEVE THE SOVIETS OR PRO-SOVIET FORCES IN ANGOLA WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR RECENT COUP/ASSASSINATION ATTEMPTS.

6. FOR ABIDJAN: THIS INFORMATION IS OF COURSE EXTREMELY SENSITIVE AND IS TO BE CLOSELY HELD. WE WANTED YOU TO HAVE IT FOR YOUR OWN INFORMATION AND BACKGROUND, HOWEVER, IN RESPONSE TO YOUR 8245 AND ESPECIALLY AS THE POSSIBILITY EXISTS THAT THE HOUPHOUET INITIATIVE MAY BEAR SOME RELATIONSHIP TO THE APPARENT CHANGE IN THE GOF'S ATTITUDE ON SUPPORT OF SAVIMBI AND UNITA, AS REFLECTED IN DE GUIRINGAUD'S REMARKS. ANY FURTHER INFO THAT MIGHT BE

DISCRETELY DEVELOPED ON HOUPHOUET INITIATIVE WOULD BE OF OBVIOUS INTEREST. SEPTTEL FOLLOWS ON PROPOSED HOUPHOUET VISIT TO U.S. CHRISTOPHER

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